

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I say to my friend from Montana, I would have liked to yield 5 minutes, but I had better take them.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia is recognized.

#### TERRORIST VICTIMS COURTROOM ACCESS ACT

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I rise to discuss a bill we just passed, S. 1858. I thank my colleagues for their support: Senator KERRY, Senator NICKLES, Senator KENNEDY, and Senators WARNER, HATCH, and CLINTON. Particularly, I thank Senator NICKLES for he was of great help in getting this measure passed.

S. 1858 deals with the upcoming trial of Zacarias Moussaoui. Moussaoui has been charged in a six-count indictment with undertaking "the same preparation for murder" as the perpetrators of the September 11 attacks, but his alleged participation had been thwarted by his arrest the previous month in Minnesota. Now this measure is one that is helpful to all of us in that he is the only suspect with any direct connection with the most vile and horrific terrorist attack in our history.

There will be substantial interest in the trial of Mr. Moussaoui on the part of those who have been left behind, especially the families and loved ones of thousands who were killed on that dreadful day. By some estimates, there are as many as 10,000 or 15,000 victims who may have an interest in viewing this historic legal proceeding that will take place in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia in Alexandria.

The current policy of the Federal Judicial Conference does not permit the televising of court proceedings. I am supporting legislation that would give Federal judges such discretion. But until that legislation passes, we will not be able to address the interests of victims' families to view the proceedings in the Moussaoui trial.

In the past, exceptions have been made through congressional action, most notably allowing the closed circuit transmission of the trials of Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols from Denver to Oklahoma City, so that families in Oklahoma could witness the proceedings. That is where Senator NICKLES was especially empathetic and knowledgeable about how much this means to the victims' families.

This legislation, S. 1858, is modeled on the law that allowed the Oklahoma City victims to witness the McVeigh and Nichols trials, and this bill will extend the same compassionate access or benefit to the numerous victims and families of September 11.

The legislation calls for the closed circuit broadcast of the court proceedings to convenient locations in Northern Virginia; Los Angeles and San Francisco, CA; New York City; Boston; and Newark, NJ. Also "with the amendment in such other locations

as the court shall determine to be desirable," to use the exact language, and other locations the court may find desirable in their discretion.

The reason for the six places is that these are the sites of the terrorist attacks: the Pentagon and the World Trade Center, and the others are the sites where commandeered aircraft either departed or intended to arrive. Unfortunately, they did not. These locations obviously would have the greatest number of interested people and have victims in this attack.

The legislation allows those who the court determines to have a compelling interest but who are unable to attend because of expense and convenience or simply a lack of space in the courtroom to witness the trial.

The courtroom in Alexandria, VA, holds fewer than 100 people, and the sheer number of victims and others who meet the standard make it impossible for them to observe in person. While there is a great, deep wound for the larger society, the wound is deepest and most deeply and painfully felt by the survivors and families who lost loved ones.

I am glad we recognize in the Senate that we owe it to those victims' families to allow them to see this open proceeding which is directly related to the horrific event of September 11 that took the lives of their loved ones. In doing so, for those who want to watch the trials—others may not—for those who want to, it will begin to help them heal.

It is a right approach that a compassionate nation wants to provide to these victims' families. I thank the Senators for their support, not of this legislation but for their support of the families of these victims.

I yield back the remainder of my time. Thank you, Mr. President.

#### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following my unanimous consent requests the Senator from Montana be recognized for up to 5 minutes, the Senator from Louisiana for up to 5 minutes, and the Senator from Ohio for 10 minutes, as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### PUBLIC HEALTH SECURITY AND BIOTERRORISM RESPONSE ACT OF 2001

Mr. REID. Mr. President, with the attention of the Senator from Mississippi, Mr. LOTT, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to H.R. 3448, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H. R. 3448) to improve the ability of the United States to prevent, prepare for, and respond to bioterrorism and other public health emergencies.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Ms. LANDRIEU. I am very concerned about help for for-profit hospitals if they must deal with bioterrorist attack. Their services are critical, and they face the same challenges as other hospitals. They should be eligible for Stafford Act assistance under certain circumstances.

Mr. KENNEDY. I understand the concerns of my colleague. In many places for-profit hospitals are the only providers. I will work with her to address these legitimate needs in conference.

#### FOOD SAFETY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I am pleased that the sponsors of the bill recognize the importance of strengthening our Nation's protections for food safety and of addressing potential bioterrorist threats against our food supply. Among the bill's provisions are new authorities for the Food and Drug Administration to require the maintenance of food records, to inspect such records, and to detain unsafe foods.

I would appreciate clarification regarding the standard of serious adverse health consequences or death, which applies to the authorities for inspection of records and administrative detention, among others. It is my understanding that some have suggested that foodborne pathogens such as salmonella, listeria monocytogenes, shigella dysenteriae, and cryptosporidium parvum, which in 1993 sickened over 400,000 people in Wisconsin who drank contaminated water, may not pose a threat of serious adverse health consequences to healthy adults. Most of these pathogens have been identified by the CDC as possible biological agents that could be used in an attack against our citizens, and they could clearly pose a threat of serious adverse health consequences or death to vulnerable populations, such as children, pregnant women, the elderly, transplant recipients, persons with HIV/AIDS and other immunocompromised persons.

Do the sponsors intend for the standard in this bill, cited in the sections on inspection of records, administrative detention, debarment, and marking of refused articles, to enable the Food and Drug Administration to act when a foodborne pathogen presents a threat of serious adverse health consequences or death to such vulnerable populations mentioned above, even if healthy adults may not face the same risk? And do the sponsors agree that the pathogens I mentioned previously may present such a risk of serious adverse health consequences or death? I believe we must ensure that the law is fully protective of all American consumers. I hope that the sponsors share my concerns.

Mr. KENNEDY. Will the Senator from Illinois yield?

Mr. DURBIN. I am happy to yield to the Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. KENNEDY. First, I commend my colleague for his longstanding advocacy for food safety. He has been a